

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00
CIAE-00 /026 W

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R 101232Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5708
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 3258

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, EAID, MASS, JO, LY, XF
SUBJECT: BADRAN TRIP TO LIBYA

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER BADRAN GAVE US A READ-
OUT ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO LIBYA. CLEAR THAT PRINCIPAL
JORDANIAN OBJECTIVE WAS TO OBTAIN, IF POSSIBLE,
LIBYAN COMMITMENT FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO JORDAN.
THIS WAS NOT ACHIEVED ACCORDING TO BADRAN, ALTHOUGH
LIBYANS WERE RECEPTIVE AND POSITIVE TOWARD
JORDAN. QADDHAFI SAID HE WOULD COMMIT HIMSELF TO
PROVIDE AID, BUT THAT THIS HAD TO BE MADE DIRECTLY
TO KING HUSSEIN. END SUMMARY

1. BADRAN AND SOME OF THE OFFICERS FROM JORDAN
WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM REMARKED INITIALLY ON THE
STRANGE AND UNPREDICTABLE ATMOSPHERE OF LIBYA.
BEFORE MEETING WITH QADDHAFI THEY HAD ATTENROD
A LECTURE WHICH HE OFFERED TO THE UNIVERSITY ON
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HIS THIRD THEORY (NOT CAPITALISM, NOT MARXISM) OF ECONOMIC
BEHAVIOR. BADRAN SAID HE SAW A CONFUSED, ERRATIC, AND NEARLY
INCOMPREHENSIBLE MAN PERFORMING. AS A RESULT, HE WAS GREATLY
WORRIED ABOUT WHAT HE COULD SAY TO THIS MAN OF SUBSTANCE,
SERIOUSNESS, AND SENSITIVITY THE NEXT DAY.

2. HOWEVER, ON THE NEXT DAY HE WAS RATHER PLEASANTLY

SURPRISED TO FIND A SUBDUED QADDHAFI, ONE WHO WAS WILLING TO SIT AND LISTEN, AND ONE WHOSE POSITIONS APPEARED, IN THEIR ARTICULATION ATLEAST, TO BE REASONABLE. THIS CONTRASTED WITH A PREVIOUS VISIT BY JORDANIAN MINISTER OF STATE IBRAHIM WHOM QADDHAFI WAS CONSTANTLY INTERRUPTING AND WHO HAD TO LISTEN TO IRRELEVANT TIRADES AND EXPLANATIONS.

3. ON ASSISTANCE TO JORDAN, BADRAN SAID HE PROVIDED QADDHAFI IN ADVANCE WITH A WRITTEN SERIES OF REQUESTS. JORDAN'S BUDGET DEFICIT WAS NOTED AND QADDHAFI'S CUT-OFF OF BUDGET SUPPORT IN 1970 ALLUDED TO. NO SPECIFIC FIGURE WAS REQUESTED. IN ADDITION, JORDAN'S REQUIREMENT IN THE MILITARY FIELD FOR HELP TO CONSTRUCT AN ARMORED VEHICLE REBUILD FACILITY AND ITS DESIRES FOR HELICOPTERS FOR ITS AIR FORCE AND C-130 ZAIRCRAFT WERE PRESENTED. JORDANIANS SPECIFICALLY ASKED ABOUT LIBYAN C-130'S IN THE U.S. WHICH HAVE NEVER BEEN DELIVERED. QADDHAFI'S REPLY WAS TO SAY THAT HE CONSIDERED ALL THESE REQUESTS IN A POSITIVE LIGHT, BUT WOULD HAVE TO SEE HUSSEIN FIRST TO FINALIZE THE DEAL. BADRAN SAYS THAT EITHER A VISIT BY HUSSEIN TO LIBYA, WHICH IS CLEARLY WHAT QADDHAFI WANTS BECAUSE HE IS FEELING ISOLATED NOW, OR A QADDHAFI VISIT TO JORDAN, IF HE CAN BE PERSUADED
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TO COME HERE, WILL BE THE ONLY WAYS TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK.

4. BADRAN INDICATED THAT LIBYANS DID NOT PRESS JORDAN TO TAKE ANY SPECIFIC POLITICAL POSITIONS. BADRAN SAID HE ATTACKED ON THIS ISSUE BY INDICATING THAT LIBYANS WERE MISTAKEN IF THEY HAD CONCLUDED THAT KING DID NOT GO TO JERUSALEM AFTER SADAT VISIT THERE BECAUSE OF SOME NEW PLICY. JORDAN'S POLICY WAS THAT IF ISRAEL WOULD WITHDRAW AND GIVE PALESTINIANS SELF-DETERMINATION, KING0 PRIME MINISTER, AND EVERYBODY ELSE WOULD GO TO JERUSALEM TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN AGREEMENTS. BADRAN SAID QADDHAFI INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS WAS A LONG-STANDING JORDANIAN POLICY AND THAT JORDAN WOULD NOT BUDGE FROM IT.

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EXDIS

5. JORDAN PRESENTED ITS IDEAS FOR A SUMMIT CONFERENCE. BADRAN SAID HE NOTED SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE POSITION WHICH QADDHAFI TOOK. QADDHAFI SAID THAT HE WAS WILLING TO MEET AT A SUMMIT WITH SADAT. HE SAID THAT ISRAELIS HAD PRODUCED PAPERS IN THE UN AS A RESULT OF SADAT'S JERUSALEM VISIT CLAIMING THAT EGYPT NOW RECOGNIZED JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL. AT A SUMMIT, SADAT WOULD, AS A CONDITION, HAVE TO AGREE TO PRODUCE A PAPER REFUTING THIS NOTION AND RETURNING THE PEACE PROCESS TO WHERE IT WAS BEFORE THE JERUSALEM VISIT. ALL OF THIS WAS QUITE VAGUE. BADRAN SAID ONLY THAT QADDHAFI INSISTED THAT WHILE STEADFASTNESS FRONT AT ITS TRIPOLI MEETING HAD AGREED NEVER TO MEET WITH SADAT, QADDHAFI WAS WILLING TO AMEND THIS UNDER SOME CONDITIONS WHICH BADRAN SAID HE FOUND WERE NOT AS ONEROUS AS HE MIGHT HAVE OTHERWISE EXPECTED.

6. BADRAN SAID HE ALSO LED THE ATTACK WITH QADDHAFI OVER THE ISSUE OF THE SA-7 MISSILES WHICH WERE TO BE USED TO BRING DOWN THE KING'S PLANE, THE CREWS
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ZFOR WHICH HAD BEEN TRAINED IN LIBYA. QADDHAFI SAID HE KNEW ABOUT THE TRAINING BUT CLAIMED IT WAS ORIENTED AGAINST ISRAEL. BADRAN SAID THAT ANYONE WHO WOULD WANT TO KILL HUSSEIN COULD ONLY BE DOING ISRAEL'S WORK. HE SAID QADDHAFI GOT THAT MESSAGE CLEARLY. QADDHAFI WAS

APOLOGETIC, AND CALLED FOR A FULL REPORT FROM HIS OWN PEOPLE ON THE SA-7 ESCAPE. BADRAN SAID HE MADE CLEAR THAT JORDANIAN INTELLIGENCE HAD TRACKED THE OPERATION FROM THE BEGINNING, INCLUDING THE PERIOD DURING WHICH THE INDIVIDUALS WERE BEING TRAINED IN LIBYA.

7. COMMENT: JORDANIANS SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THE UNPREDICTABLE NATURE OF QADDHAFI. THEIR STRATEGY HERE CAN PROBABLY BEST BE DESCRIBED AS A KIND OF "SNATCH-AND"GRAB RAID." THEY SEEM TO BE WILLING TO KEEP LINES OPEN, AND TO SEE WHAT THE PROCESS WILL PRODUCE. THEY SEEM TO BELIEVE ALSO THAT QADDHAFI WANTS TO BROADEN HIS PRESENT NARROW CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, THAT, WHATEVER HE REALLY THINKS, HE SPEAKS HIGHLY OF HUSSEIN, AND THAT SA-7 ESCAPE WAS AN EMBARRASSMENT TO LIBYA FOR WHICH THE JORDANIANS WILL TRY TO MAKE LIBYA ATONE MONETARILY. THIS IS AN INTERESTING EPISODE IN THE EXERCISE OF JORDAN'S RATHER HIGHLY-DEVELOPED CAPACITY TO ATTRACT DONOR INTEREST. WE BELIEVE UP UNTIL NOW THE JORDANIANS HAVE AVOIDED SPECIFICALLY STAKING ANY VITAL POLITICAL INTERESTS IN DEALINGS WITH LIBYA AND WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO DO SO. BUT AFTERALL, THE GAME IS STILL IN THE OPENING STAGES. IT IS NOT INCONCEIVABLE THAT WE MAY BE ASKED AT SOME POINT TO RELEASE SOME OF LIBYA'S C-130'S TO JORDAN. WE PRESUME THAT THOUGHT WILL NOW BE GIVEN TO THIS AND HOPE THAT WE CAN BE AS SUPPORTIVE AND AS POSITIVE AS POSSIBLE. WE ASSUME THIS WOULD

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GET RID OF AN ALBATROSS AROUND OUR NECKS AND KEEP THE EQUIPMENT OUT OF QADDHAFI'S HANDS. INCIDENTALLY, QADDHAFI APPEARED TO BELIEVE THAT HE HAD REQUESTED 747'S (NOT 727'S) FROM THE UNITED STATES AND WAS SURPRISED, APPARENTLY FOR FIRST TIME, TO BE TOLD IN BADRAN'S PRESENCE THAT THE U.S. HAD NOT SEEN FIT TO APPROVE THIS COMMERCIAL SALE. END COMMENT PICKERING

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